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Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7868th meeting
Friday, 20 January 2017, 11 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Skoog	(Sweden)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Solíz
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Mr. Klein
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2016/1072)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2016/1072)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/1072, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council takes note of the report (S/2016/1072) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and welcomes the briefing on 13 January 2017 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas).

"The Security Council welcomes the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 29 December 2016 and its annex concerning the extension of the mandate of the UNOWAS for a further period of three years, from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

"The Security Council expresses its full support to the Special Representative and looks forward to efforts to enhance ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and good offices, subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, as well as the promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender mainstreaming.

"The Security Council welcomes the recent positive political developments in several West African countries, in particular the holding of free and peaceful elections in Cape Verde and Ghana, and the outcome of the political dialogue in Guinea. The Security Council welcomes the steps taken to develop and institute political, institutional and constitutional reforms in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council takes note of the steps taken by the United Nations system, in partnership with the authorities of Burkina Faso, to pilot a new approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts in the country, including the development of a strategic framework to help consolidate stability in the post-transition period. The Security Council encourages UNOWAS to support peacebuilding and sustain peace efforts in other countries in West Africa where democratic gains remain fragile, following the comprehensive United Nations inter-agency approach in Burkina Faso.

"The Security Council welcomes the ongoing work of UNOWAS to promote women's participation in political, peace and security processes and, in this regard, welcomes positive developments in Liberia and Nigeria.

"The Security Council recalls press statement SC/12616, presidential statement S/PRST/2016/19 and resolution 2337 (2017) and welcomes and is encouraged by the decision on the political situation in The Gambia of the fiftieth ordinary session of the Economic Community of West African States Authority, held in Abuja on 17 December 2016, and welcomes the decisions of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council at its six hundred and forty-fourth meeting, held on 12 December 2016, as well as its declaration at its six hundred and forty-seventh meeting, held on 13 January 2017, that, as of 19 January 2017, outgoing President Yahya Jammeh will cease to be recognized by the AU as the legitimate President of the Republic of The Gambia. In this regard, the Security Council requests the Special Representative, through his good offices, to continue facilitating interactions and negotiations aimed at ensuring a peaceful transfer of power from outgoing President Yahya Jammeh to President Adama Barrow.

"The Security Council expresses its concerns over the prevalence of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and terrorist threats in the region and their linkages to transnational organized crime. In this regard, the Security Council strongly

condemns all terrorist attacks carried out in the region, in particular in the Lake Chad basin region, notably by Boko Haram. The Security Council stresses the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The Security Council expresses particular concern about attacks on civilians, who are the primary victims of this terrorist violence.

"The Security Council welcomes the subregional, regional and international efforts to mitigate the security, humanitarian and development consequences of Boko Haram's operations. The Security Council takes note of the progress made in the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The Security Council urges the member States participating in the MNJTF to further enhance regional military cooperation and coordination, deny haven to Boko Haram and secure the conditions to enable humanitarian access and facilitate the restoration of civilian security and the rule of law in liberated areas. The Security Council reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council encourages Member States and multilateral partners to lend their support to the MNJTF to ensure its full operationalization, including the provision of modalities to increase the timely and effective exchange of intelligence to further the region's collective efforts to combat Boko Haram, whenever possible and appropriate. The Security Council underscores the importance of a holistic approach to degrade and defeat Boko Haram that includes coordinated security operations, conducted in accordance with applicable international law, as well as enhanced civilian efforts to improve governance and promote economic growth in the affected areas. In this regard, the Security Council deeply regrets the tragic incident in Rann, north-east Nigeria, on 17 January 2017, which resulted in the deaths of numerous civilians, including internally displaced persons and humanitarian workers. The Security Council urges the Government of Nigeria to swiftly investigate the incident and recalls the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian, human right and refugee law.

"The Security Council reiterates deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation caused by the activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin region. In this regard, the Security Council calls on the international community to immediately support the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance for the people most affected by the crisis in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, including by fulfilling the United Nations appeal for the Lake Chad basin region. It also urges national Governments to facilitate access for humanitarian organizations and to work with the United Nations and international partners to develop viable options for delivering aid.

"The Security Council expresses continued concern about piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods, the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking and stresses the need to strengthen the fight against illicit activities in the subregion.

"The Security Council welcomes the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and encourages further collaboration between Member States, regional and subregional organizations, relevant United Nations entities and with other relevant stakeholders to enhance social cohesion and to address challenges to good governance.

"The Security Council commends the engagement of UNOWAS with subregional and regional organizations, in particular, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel), the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Mano River Union, in order to promote peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel. The Security Council remains committed to working closely with these organizations through UNOWAS to strengthen subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border security threats and prevent the spread of terrorism. In that respect, they welcome the assistance of UNOWAS to the efforts of the ECOWAS Commission to implement its Regional Framework for Security Sector Reform

and Governance and to promote a coordinated security sector reform approach in the region.

"The Security Council notes the collaboration undertaken between UNOWAS and the Peacebuilding Commission and encourages continued close and effective cooperation in support of sustainable peace in the region.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS, as well as of Member States in West Africa and the Sahel, to strengthen border security and regional cooperation, including through the G-5 Sahel and the Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

"The Security Council encourages further progress by the United Nations system and its partners towards the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, including through support to the Group of 5 for the Sahel, in order to assist in addressing the security and political challenges to the stability and development of the Sahel region, and reaffirms its continued commitment to address such challenges, which are interrelated with humanitarian and development issues, as well as the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes, and, in this regard, highlights the need for adequate risk assessments and risk management strategies relating to climate change impacts.

"The Security Council welcomes the conclusion of the independent evaluation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. In that regard, the Security Council requests UNOWAS to coordinate with States in the Sahel and all other stakeholders to provide strategic leadership, guidance and direction to the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the Strategy, including its thematic focus, coordination arrangements, partnerships and distribution of responsibilities among United Nations entities in the field and at Headquarters.

"The Security Council requests UNOWAS to contribute to efforts aimed at sustaining international engagement by re-energizing the commitments and initiatives of all the relevant stakeholders, including countries of the region, the various regional mechanisms, the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and emphasizes, in that regard, the importance of the convening role of the Peacebuilding Commission in peacebuilding efforts, and thus, in collaboration with UNOWAS, in mobilizing deeper commitment and partnership between the United Nations system, the countries of the Sahel and other international and regional partners with a view to advancing the implementation of the Strategy, in collaboration with UNOWAS, and to adapting the Strategy to the evolving needs of the region.

"The Security Council further requests UNOWAS to provide the necessary support to the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel and its Technical Secretariat, as well as to the G-5 Sahel.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to periodically monitor progress made, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide, in the upcoming regular report due in July 2017, information on UNOWAS efforts with respect to the following aspects of its United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel-related mandate: a) coherence in the political and programmatic aspects of the Strategy; b) streamlining and coordination of initiatives by international and regional actors in the Sahel region, with a view to ensuring that they meet the emerging challenges in the region; c) guidance and leadership of the overall engagement of the United Nations system and partners with a view to serving the overall objective of the Strategy; d) advancing the implementation of the nine flagship projects of the Strategy and the assessment of their impact; and e) ensuring attention to all Strategy pillars, and funding gaps."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/2.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.